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Message Text

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15
ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 /049 R

DRAKTED BY EA/P:STAFF:PP
APPROVD BY EA/P:AHROSEN
---------- 083820
R 112323Z JAN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
USDEL JEC PARIS
USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM
CINCPAC HONOLULU
COGARD POLAD
XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 006893

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
SUBJECT: JANUARY 11 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. MCCOMBS (WP) WRITES FROM PP THAT CITY IS CALM DESPITE HEAVY FIGHTING NEARBY. DIPLOMATS PREDICT IT WILL SURVIVE BECAUSE OF CONTINUING STRENGTH OF FANK AND RECENT GKR MOVES TO EASE UNREST CAUSED BY ECON CRUNCH, INCLUDING PAY INCREASES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS AND SOLDIERS, DEVALUATION, LOWER RICE PRICE AND SOME PRICE CONTROLS ON OTHER KEY FOODS. INFO MINISTER SAYS INDIRECT, UNOFFICIAL CONTACTS UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH ENEMY GO FORWARD, BUT INFORMED OBSERVERS SAY NOTHING CAN BE EXPECTED UNTIL CURRENT DRY-SEASON OFFENSIVE PLAYS ITSELF OUT -- "IF THEN". PP RESIDENTS GO ABOUT DAILY BUSINESS WITH BATTLE

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SOUNDS IN BACKGROUND AND OCCASIONAL ROCKETS SHAKING
DOWNTOWN AREA. PRESENT BATTLE STARTED WHEN FOUR
REBEL BATTALIONS TOOK UP POSITIONS NW OF CITY
AND TWO MILES FROM POCHENTONG ON SUNDAY, PUSHED
OVER 1000 CIVILIANS IN FRONT OF THEM AND MOVED
TOWARD AIRPORT. ADVANCE HALTED BY FANK SUPPORTED
BY APCS AND AIRSTRIKES, AND BATTLE CONTINUES.
APCS REPORTEDLY SWEPT BEHIND MAIN REBEL FORCE
SUNDAY, AVOIDING EXTENSIVE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES
AND ALLOWING MOST VILLAGERS TO ESCAPE. USAF PHOTO
RECON JETS ROARED OVER BATTLEFIELD ON MISSIONS FOR
KHMER. REBELS GOT NO CLOSER THAN TWO MILES TO
POCHENTONG. GEN. FERNANDEZ ON RADIO SAYS FANK WILL
CLEAR REBELS OUT WITHIN TWO DAYS. OBSERVERS UNSURE
HOW ENEMY GOT SO CLOSE, CONSIDER BATTLE ONE OF MOST
IMPORTANT SINCE US BOMBING HALT. MCCOMBS DESCRIBES
TROOP MOVEMENTS AND FIRING ON BATTLEFIELD, WATCHED
BY HUNDREDS OF INTERESTED SPECTATORS WHO LIVE IN
AREA AND VISITED BY US EMBASSY MILITARY OBSERVER.
SAYS US OBSERVERS CONSIDER YAI SINDY, FANK BATTLE
COMMANDER, TO BE EFFECTIVE LEADER WHO MOVED RAPIDLY
AND DECISIVELY AND PREVENTED DISASTER. MCCOMBS WITNESSED
US EMBASSY LT. COL DRIVE UP FOR BRIEFING, PROFFER
NO ADVICE, AND LEAVE. MCCOMBS ALSO DESCRIBES OTHER
REBEL ACTION 8 MILES NORTH OF PP ON ROUTE 5, WHERE
"THERE WAS NO YAI SINDY". PEOPLE AND SOLDIERS FLED
BEFORE REBELS WHO CAPTURED TOWN AND ARE DESTROYING
IT, BUT SITUATION IS FLUID AND IT'S DIFFICULT TO
CONFIRM ANYTHING. IN PP CITIZENS ARE WORRIED, BUT
"WHERE CAN THEY GO?" ENEMY RADIO EXHORTS POPULATION
TO LEAVE CITY BEFORE "A THOUSAND ROCKETS" RAIN DOWN,
BUT FEW ARE LEAVING.

2. KAF MAKES REPEATED NAPALM STRIKES ON ENEMY POSITIONS
WEST AND NORTH OF PP TO SUPPORT FANK ADVANCE WITH
APCS ON TEN-MILE FRONT (AP, WP; UPI N-A 1/10, S-
N 1/10; CHITRIB). UPI PP QUOTES WESTERN MILITARY
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OBSERVER THAT "COMMUNISTS HAVE THROWN SUBSTANTIAL
FORCES INTO THE OFFENSIVE WITHOUT MAKING SUBSTANTIAL
GAINS. THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS ARE HOLDING THEIR OWN".
FANK COMMAND REPORTS ANOTHER MAJOR BATTLE EAST OF
MEKONG ABOUT SIX MILES NE OF PP (CHITRIB). MILITARY
POLICE SAY THREE ROCKETS SLAM INTO PP, KILL ONE AND
WOUND THREE (REUTER).

3. "OFFICERS" SAY PLANS TO EXCHANGE OVER 4000 POWS
BEFORE TET BROKE DOWN BECAUSE VC AND GVN UNABLE AGREE
ON RELEASE TIMES AND PLACES (UPI, CHITRIB).

4. HOFFMAN ON AP (S-N 1/10) SAYS RECENT INTELLIGENCE

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REPORTS INDICATE COMMUNIST TROOPS ORDERED TO PREPARE
PHONY GRAVES TO LURE AND AMBUSH US SEARCH TEAMS.
REPORTS SAY COMMUNISTS BELIEVE US TEAMS ARE TO SPY
ON THEM, USING MIA SEARCH AS COVER. US OFFICIALS
CONCERNED THAT DECEMBER AMBUSH MAY HAVE BEEN START
OF CAMPAIGN TO INFLICT CASUALTIES ON TEAMS. NVA
AND VC HAVE SPURNED REQUEST TO ACCOMPANY SEARCH TEAMS.
OFFICIALS INSIST NO INTENTION OF DISBANDING TEAMS YET.

5. UPI FROM UDORN REPORTS US AIRMEN STILL FLY "COMBAT"
RECON OVER INDOCHINA FROM THAILAND BASE. NEWSMEN
ALLOWED INTO UDORN, FOR FIRST TIME IN ALMOST FOUR
YEARS, TO SPEAK TO CREWMEN ON RECON RF4. PLANES
"LIKELY" HEAD FOR HO CHI MINH TRAIL IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA.
US OFFICIALS SAY COMMUNISTS HAVE NOT FIRED ON RECON
FLIGHTS SINCE BOMBING HALT, DESPITE NVN CHARGES THAT
MISSIONS VIOLATE C-F AGREEMENT (N-A 1/10).

CHINA

6. MOST PAPERS CARRY AP STORIES ON PLATT CASE, SUN
NOTING THAT HIS BEING WITHDRAWN INVOLVED DEATH OF
5-YEAR-OLD CHINESE GIRL CYCLIST IN AUTO ACCIDENT;
PHINQ LEAD SAYS "PEKING EXPELS US ENVOY," ADDS THAT
US OFFICIALS SAID PLATT IS HIGHLY-RESPECTED FSO WHO
WILL BE REASSIGNED WITHOUT DAMAGE TO HIS CAREER.
AP TOKYO (S-N, JAN. 10) REPORTS BRUCE'S STATEMENT
ON PLATT INCIDENT, READ BY US MARINE GUARD IN OVERSEAS
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PHONE CALL; ADDS DETAILS GIVEN BY US CONSULATE OFFICIAL
IN HK THAT AFTER PLATT AUTO STRUCK GIRL WHO SWERVED
IN FRONT OF I, PLATT IMMEDIATELY STOPPED CAR, HAILED
PASSING TRUCK, AND TOOK GIRL TO HOSPITAL WHERE SHE
DIED FOUR HOURS LATER OF HEAD INJURIES. WP REPORTS
USLO STATEMENT, NOTING PLATT HAD AGREED TO INDEMNIFY
VICTIM'S FAMILY. CSM CITES ABC JAN. 10 REPORT ON
PLATT, ADDING THAT THERE WAS NO DETERMINATION HE
WAS AT FAULT.

7. JOC BRUSSELS REPORTS BELGIAN PREMIER AND FM HAVE
ACCEPTED PRC INVITATION TO VISIT CHINA, POSSIBLY
IN FIRST HALF OF YEAR.

8. NYDN'S FULMAN WATCHES PRACTICE OF TAIWAN TAI
YUEN TEXTILE CO. GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM AT INSTITUTE
OF CHINESE CULTURE IN NY CHINATOWN PRIOR TO GAMES
IN NY AREA.

JAPAN

9. REUTER REPORTS TANAKA FRIDAY SINGAPORE ARRIVAL

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FOR ONE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT ON THIRD LEG OF FIVE-NATION
ASIAN TOUR.

10. FROM BANGKOK, NYT'S HALLORAN SAYS JAN. 10 WAS
ANOTHER DAY OF THAI COMPLAINTS FOR TANAKA, KIRST
AT SUBDUED MEETING WITH PM SANYA AND OTHER OFFICIALS
WHO CRITICIZED BEHAVIOR OF JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN IN
THAILAND, AND THEN AT SESSION WITH DELEGATION OF
13 THAI STUDENTS, WHO PRESENTED LETTER DEMANDING
GOJ ASSURANCES THAT JAPAN'S TRADE AND INVESTMEN
IN HAILAND BENEFIT THAI WELL AS JAPANESE, THAT JAPANESE
FIRMS CEASE "EXPLOITING" THAI LABOR AND THAT ECON
AID HELP THAI ECONOMY, NOT JAPAN'S. HALLORAN SAYS
STUDENTS, IN LATER DISCUSSION WITH NEWSMEN, COULD
SPECIFY ONLY FEW INSTANCES IN WHICH THAI ECONOMY
HAS BEEN HURT BY JAPANESE; THUS, THEIR OUTBURSTS
AGAINST JAPANESE "APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN GENERATED
BY DISSATISFACTION WITH THAILAND'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS
COMPARED WITH JAPAN'S." MOREOVER, THEY "INDICATED
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RATHER CLEARLY THAT THEY WERE UPSET NOT SO MUCH BY
WHAT THE JAPANESE HAD DONE HERE AS HOW THEY HAD GONE
ABOUT IT." HALLORAN ADDS THAT
NOT ONLY WAS TANAKA
MEETING WITH STUDENTS UNUSUAL IN THAT FOREIGN GOVT.
HEADS RARELY GO OUT OF NORMAL POLITICAL-DIPLOMATIC
CHANNELS DURING STATE VISITS, BUT IT ALSO DID NOT
SEEM TO RESOLVE MUCH.

11. WP'S OBERDORFER (IN BANGKOK) SEES JAPAN, IN
PERSON OF TANAKA IN THAILAND, LEARNING ANEW THIS
WEEK THAT ROLE OF BIG POWER IN SEASIA IS NOT ENTIRELY
HAPPY ONE. SAYS AS US DOMINANCE IN REGION EBBS,
IMPORTANCE AND VISIBILITY OF JAPAN IS INCREASING;
"'YELLOW YANKEES' SEEM TO BE RESENTED MORE THAN THE
ORIGINAL ARTICLE," AND THERE IS BITTER FEELING THAT
JAPANESE ARE IN IT FOR THEIR OWN SAKE ALONE, WITH
LITTLE THOUGHT OF CONSEQUENCES FOR OTHER PEOPLES.
OBERDORFER FINDS THAI STUJENTS "TAKING THEIR RESPONSI-
BILITIES AND POWERS VERY SERIOUSLY," WITH POLICE
AND OTHER OFFICIALS RELUCTANT TO INTERFERE IN STUDENT
DEMONSTRATIONS, WHICH ARE LARGELY SELK-POLICING.

12. TANAKA-SANYA JOINT COMMUNIQUE SAYS LEADERS AGREED
TO SOFTEN TERMS ON YEN LOANS TO THAI, BUT NO FIGURES
GIVEN. TANAKA NOTED THAT INTEREST RATES WERE LOWERED
HALF PERCENT TO 2.5 IN NOV. (AP, SUN; WP, OBERDORFER).

13. CHIEF CABINET SEC. NIKAIDO ANNOUNCES JAPAN WILL
PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE OF MAJOR OIL-CONSUMING
NATIONS PROPOSED BY US TO DISCUSS WAYS OF DEALING

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WITH ENERGY CRISIS. EXPRESSES GOJ HOPE THAT PROPOSED MEETING WILL BE FIRST STEP TOWARD CREATING HARMONIOUS RELATIONS BETWEEN OIL-PRODUCING AND OIL-CONSUMING STATES (REUTER).

14. MIKI SAYS JAPAN WILL CONTRIBUTE TO WELFARE OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN PARTIAL REPAYMENT FOR ARAB OIL SUPPLIES THAT CONTRIBUTED TO JAPANESE ECON BOOM (CSM). TOYOTA REVEALS NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN ON CONSTRUCTION OK PASSENGER CAR ASSEMBLY PLANT IN IRAN
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IN EXCHANGE FOR GUARANTEED CRUDE OIL SHIPMENTS FOR JAPANESE INDUSTRY (JOC'S CULLISON). JAL BUYS 6 DC-10-40S FROM MCDONNELL DOUGLASS (JOC).

THAILAND

15. THAI ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "NATION," QUOTING POLICE OFFICIAL, IDENTIKIES HUGH TOVAR AS CIA HEAD IN THAILAND. THAI GROUP CABLES US SENATE DEMANDING KINTNER'S RECALL, WITHDRAWAL OK US FORCES FROM THAILAND AND END TO CIA ACTIVITIES THERE. KINTNER REPORTEDLY HAD TO LEAVE RECEPTION RECENTLY AFTER PAPER US FLAGS WERE BURNED IN FRONT OF HIM (REUTER).

AUSTRALIA

16. SCHLESINGER AND BARNARD ANNOUNCE NEW AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH US WILL "GIVE UP CONTROL OVER MUCH OF THE OPERATION" (UPI) OF NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATION AT NW CAPE TO AUSTRALIAN NAVY. (AP VERSION HAS US AND AUSTRALIA SHARING OPERATION AND CONTROL). AUSSIE NAVAL OFFICER WILL BECOME DEPUTY BASE COMMANDER, 35 OTHER AUSTRALIAN NAVAL PERSONNEL WILL OCCUPY KEY SUPERVISORY POSITIONS AND AUSTRALIA AUTHORIZED TO BUILD OWN COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT CAPE STATION ALONGSIDE US MESSAGE CENTER (UPI PHINQ, BALT. N-A JAN. 10AP, WP). CSM ADDS THAT BARNARD SAID AGREEMENT PROVIDES US WILL ADVISE GOA IN ADVANCE IF ALERT IS DECLARED AT BASE.

PHILIPPINES

17. MARCOS GRANTS GENERAL AMNESTY FOR PERSONS WHO FAILED TO REGISTER OR VOTE IN LAST JULY'S NATIONAL REFERENDUM. MOVE ENDS PROTRACTED COURT BATTLE INVOLVING JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES (AP, WP).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

18. GLOBE AND MAIL'S JOHN BURNS (NYT) IN PEKING NOTES THAT STREET CRIMES IN PRC CAPITAL AND SOME

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OTHER CITIES HAS INCREASED TO POINT WHERE NEIGHBORHOODS
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ARE BEING PATROLLED DAY AND NIGHT BY MILITIA UNITS.
OFFENSES, CALLED ACTS OF "HOOLIGANISM," RANGE FROM
PETTY THEFT TO MURDER, PERPETRATED BY WHAT PEOPLE'S
DAILY CALLED CLASS ENEMIES, COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES
AND BAD ELEMENTS IN ARTICLE LAST MONTH. HOWEVER,
IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT THEY ARE DRIFTERS WHO
MADE THEIR WAY BACK TO CITIES ILLEGALLY FROM ENFORCED
RURAL RESETTLEMENT. LATEST OKKICIAL ESTIMATE IS
THAT MORE THAN 8 MILLION SENT TO COUNTRYSIDE IN LAST
FIVE YEARS. PROCLAIMED PURPOSE OF PROGRAM IS TO
PURGE YOUNG PEOPLE OF BOURGEOIS TENDENCIES AND INSTILL
IN THEM A TRULY PEASANT OUTLOOK. BUT IT ALSO HAS
ADVANTAGE OF REDUCING POPULATION GROWTH IN CITIES
AND REMOVING LARGE NUMBER WHO, AS RED GUARDS, BECAME
ACCUSTOMED TO POLITICAL ACTIVISM DURING GPCR. MANY
SO SENT TO COUNTRYSIDE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO SETTLE
DOWN; SOME COMPLAINED THAT THEIR EDUCATIONS ARE WASTED
IN OFTEN PRIMITIVE AGRICULTURAL TASKS. NO OFFICIAL
FIGURES ON DESERTIONS, BUT ONE ESTIMATE IS THAT THERE
ARE 50,000 IN PEKING WHO FLED COMMUNES, OF ABOUT
1 MILLION PEKING YOUTH SENT TO COUNTRYSIDE.

19. CHITRIB VIEWS ROKG "EMERGENCY" DECREE AS COMING
CLOSE TO MAKING IT A CRIME FOR ANYONE TO DISAGREE WITH
PARK. SAYS US AND JAPANESE PUBLIC OPINION IS NOT
GOING TO BUY PARK'S RATIONALE, I.E., THE NK MILITARY
THREAT, POINTING OUT THAT ROKG DEPENDS FOR SURVIVAL
ON ECON COOPERATION WITH JAPAN AND US MILITARY AND
ECON ASSISTANCE, ADDING THAT US DID NOT FIGHT WAR
FOR THREE YEARS AND SACRIFICE LIVES OK 55,000 OF
ITS MEN TO ESTABLISH PARK AS TYRANT. CONCLUDES THAT
PARK REGIME HAS MADE LIFE IN SK ALMOST AS INTOLERABLE
AS THAT IN NK.

20. CSM'S SAIKOWSKI REPORTS US OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGING
POTENTIAL FOR DETERIORATION OF US-THAI RELATIONS
IN WAKE OF ANTI-AMERICAN STUDENT PROTESTS IN BANGKOK
OVER CIA LETTER INCIDENT. VIEWS CURRENT FERMENT
IN THAILAND AS REPRESENTING A MIXTURE OF DOMESTIC
AND EXTERNAL FACTORS. RECENT PROTESTS AT US EMBASSY
ARE VIEWED AS EXTENSION OF POPULAR REVOLUTION CARRIED
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OUT LAST YEAR BY STUDENTS; BUT DEMONSTRATIONS, INCLUDING
PEACEFUL PROTEST AGAINST VISIT OF TANAKA, AL

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